

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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BEST BUY GETS GO-AHEAD FROM ARMY CORPS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved the permit application that will allow Best Buy Company to build its new distribution center in Nichols. The company has promised to hire 400 employees within the center's first five years.

"The economic boom of the last decade did not reach all areas of New York State and the economy of the Southern Tier struggled even before the recent downturn," said Hinchey. "Four hundred new jobs will provide a tremendous boost, not just for the construction workers and the new Best Buy employees, but for many area businesses."

In October, Best Buy selected the 150-acre site off Route 17 in the hamlet of Lounsberry from among 100 potential locations. The fact that Route 17 has been designated to become Interstate Route 86 was a key factor in the decision. Hinchey co-authored the legislation that designated Route 17 as I-86 and secured significant funding for necessary upgrades.

In order to build the distribution center, Best Buy needed to obtain a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers by demonstrating that it would not infringe on environmentally sensitive areas. Hinchey worked with Tioga County, Best Buy, and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the permitting process was prompt and thorough. The Army Corps of Engineers informed Hinchey this morning that the permit has been approved.

"Congressman Hinchey was the driving force in acquiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the Best Buy project," said Jeff Stoke, Tioga County Deputy Director of Economic Development. "Tioga County's link to the federal government is Congressman Hinchey and, once again, he came through for our community."